

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE

REF: SEOUL 3600

1. KIM TAE-CHUNG REFUTED GOVERNMENT'S CHARGES OF 1967 AND 1971 ELECTION VIOLATIONS FOR THREE HOURS FIFTEEN MINUTES IN SECOND SESSION OF CURRENT TRIAL SERIES HELD JUNE 12.

2. ASKED BY HIS LAWYER TO COMPARE THE PRESENT LEGAL SYSTEM WITH THE "GENERALISSIMO SYSTEM" OF WHICH HE SPOKE IN HIS 1971 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN SPEECHES, KIM REPLIED BY EXPOUNDING HIS VIEWS ON DEMOCRACY AND EXPLAINING WHY HE HAD USED THAT PHRASE. KIM SAID THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WHICH PERMITTED PRESIDENT PARK TO RUN FOR A THIRD TERM WAS DEvised BY PAEK NAM-OK, YI HU-RAK AND KIL CHAE-HO AS A DEFENSE AGAINST "HARD-LINERS" IN THE GOVERNMENT CAMP WHO WERE INTENT ON MAKING THE PRESIDENT A "GENERALISSIMO." EVEN AFTER THE AMENDMENT WAS PASSED IN 1969 THOSE PROMOTING A GENERALISSIMO SYSTEM REMAINED ACTIVE.

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THEREFORE, KIM SPOKE OUT TO BLOCK THEIR EFFORTS.

AS FOR THE PRESENT SYSTEM, KIM SAID IT WAS THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF WHAT HE BELIEVES IN. I.E., GENUINE DEMOCRACY WITH FREE SPEECH AND PRESS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER.

3. ANSWERING CHARGE THAT HE CAMPAIGNED PREMATURELY IN 1971 KIM POINTED TO GOVERNMENT SIDE'S USE OF GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONIES AND OTHER PUBLICITY OF GOVERNMENT ACHIEVEMENTS TO CAMPAIGN IN SEASON AND OUT. INASMUCH AS IN A DEMOCRACY A POLITICAL PARTY HAS THE RIGHT TO ATTEMPT TO GAIN POWER HE SAW NO REASON OPPOSITION SHOULD BE HANDICAPPED IN GETTING ITS MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE. ON CHARGE THAT HE HAD FALSELY ACCUSED HIS 1967 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OPPONENT KIM PYONG-SAM OF COMPLICITY IN KIM KU ASSASSINATION, KIM OFFERED AS EVIDENCE BOOK AND MAGAZINE ON WHICH HE HAD BASED STATEMENT AND ADDED THAT HIS POPULAR SUPPORT WAS SUCH THAT HE HAD NO NEED TO RESORT TO SLANDER.

4. TRIAL WAS HELD IN A LARGER ROOM THAN JUNE 5 SESSION AND EMBASSY OBSERVER ESTIMATED THERE WERE ABOUT 400 SPECTATORS. ONCE AGAIN KIM TAE-CHUNG TESTIMONY USED ENTIRE TIME AND CO-DEFENDANTS YANG IL-DONG AND KIM HYONG-IL HAVE YET TO SPEAK. LIKE LAST WEEK, CROWD APPLAUDED KIM AS HE STEPPED INTO WAITING CAR TO RETURN HOME. SOMEONE SHOUTED "GOOD FIGHT."

5. NEXT TRIAL SESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 19 IN THE AFTERNOON.

6. COMMENT: KIM'S FORCEFUL REPLIES HAD SOME OF THE SAME STYLE AND ZEST THAT MARKED HIS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. TRIAL IS AROUSING INTEREST WITHIN POLITICAL AND PRESS CIRCLES.
HABIB

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